

GRASSY ISLAND ISSUE STATEMENT

February 2006

BACKGROUND

Grassy Island is located in the Detroit River. Beginning in 1959, it was used by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to contain sediments dredged primarily from the Rouge River. The USACE deposited dredged sediments on the island under a U.S. Coast Guard permit from 1959 to 1987. Grassy Island has been part of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Wildlife Refuge system since 1961, and is now part of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) completed a Preliminary Assessment and Site Inspection that summarized what is known and unknown about the contaminants on Grassy Island (www.fws.gov/midwest/GrassyIsland/documents/PASI_final.pdf). Based on studies described in the report, mean concentrations of numerous contaminants in soil and water on Grassy Island exceed one or more criteria or guidelines for protection of human health or the environment.

PURPOSE

Our agencies will work together to assure that Grassy Island is not having adverse impacts on the environment, both now and in the future. The Service, as the lead agency, will work together with the USACE, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Geological Survey and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality to resolve uncertainties regarding the island.

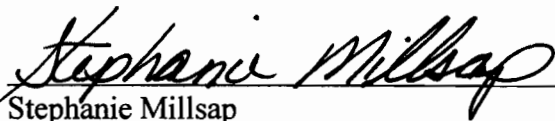
GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

In order to make management decisions with regard to Grassy Island, the following remaining areas of uncertainty must be addressed:

- Potential release of contaminants off the site;
- Potential risks to human health and the environment under current conditions or potential future use scenarios; and
- Maintenance necessary to maintain structural integrity of dike walls.

Our agencies have committed to work together toward agreement on information needs and future actions required to resolve any potential environmental issues. This statement expresses a joint commitment to work toward the characterization of Grassy Island and is intended to demonstrate a spirit of cooperation and synergy between our agencies to be achieved within our respective authorities and funding authorizations.

Reviewed and approved by:



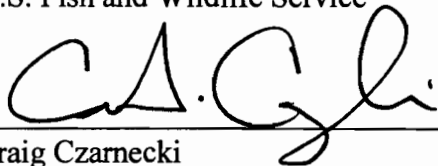
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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

2/23/06

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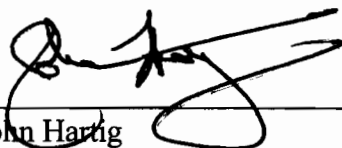
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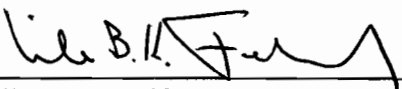
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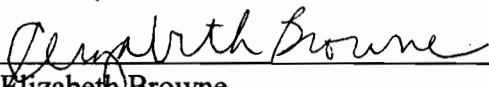
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3/2/06

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